WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
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FFESTINIOG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1956

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. EVAN RICHARDS
M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector
and Surveyor :

CYRIL PARRY, C.R.S.I.

Health Committee :

The Health Committee consists of
all members of the Council

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer
of the Council :

D. O. JONES, A.A.C.C.A.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Cadvan Jones, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Health Report for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

For yet one more year the melancholy fact that there has been a decline in population by the mid year estimate, this time a fall of eighty.

It is heartening to record an increase of 36 in the number of live births, but to offset this there was an increase of 22 in the number of deaths, which still outstrip the number of births.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system account for nearly half the total deaths, a fact which reflects the ageing character of the population.

There were five fewer deaths from Tuberculosis, but an increase of 13 occurred in the number of cancer deaths.

"Other respiratory diseases", (the majority Industrial) numbered 8.

There was a welcome fall of 13 in the number of new notifications, which were concentrated, as were the deaths, in the higher age groups.

There was a continuation of the previous year's epidemic of measles during 1956. No cases of food poisoning were notified.

An outbreak of Dysentery took place in a Children's Home in the district, but was well localised.

The Council continued with their efforts at slum clearance and rehousing by purchase and improvement of properties.

I wish to thank Mr. Parry and the officers of the Council for their co-operation during the year.

Evan Richards.

SECTION A. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Urban District 16.323

Rateable Value £52,747

Population (Registrar General's figures)..... 6540

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £194.1.3.17592

Number of inhabited houses (According to the Rate Books) at end of year 2374

COMPARABILITY FACTORS

Births	1.12
Deaths	0.99

VITAL STATISTICS

Nett Births (Live and Still)	- 110
Births (Live)	- 109
Births (Still)	- 1

LIVE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION 15.13
1955 Figure 11.03

LIVE BIRTHS - 109

	Males	Females
Total	53	56
Legitimate	50	51
Illegitimate	3	5

Illegitimate Birth Rate (Percentage of Total Live Births)

= 7.34

DEATHS

Total Number - 124		
	Males	Females
	74	50
Rate per 1,000 population - 18.96		
1955 figures - 15.41		

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

Total - 2		
	Males	Females
Total	-	2
Legitimate	-	1
Illegitimate	-	1

Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 live births) - 18.35

1955 Figures - 13.70

Deaths of Legitimate Infants
Mortality (per 1,000 live births) - 9.17

Deaths of Illegitimate Infants
Mortality (per 1,000 live births) - 9.17

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS

	Males	Females
Total	-	2
Legitimate	-	1
Illegitimate	-	1

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths connected with childbirth and pregnancy - Nil

DEATHS FROM CANCER

Total - 29

Rate per 1,000 pupulation - 4.43

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Total - 7

Rate per 1,000 population - 1.04

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

One Medical Officer of Health.

One Public Health Inspector.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Water analysis (Chemical) carried out by the Public Analyst, Chester.

Water (Bacteriological) carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

Milk (Tests for cleanliness, for keeping quality and for tuberculosis) carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

No charge is made on the Local Authority for these tests.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Two Ambulances stationed in the Urban Area.

4. INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Held at Isallt Clinic, Blaenau Ffestiniog, fortnightly.

5. ANTE NATAL CLINICS

Held every two weeks at Isallt Clinic.

6. ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

Held every two weeks at the Memorial Hospital.

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7. TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC

Weekly clinic held at The Clinic, Wynn Road.

8. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health.
Babies and young children immunised at the Primary Schools and Isallt Clinic, Blaenau Ffestiniog.

9. HOSPITALS

One fully equipped Hospital in the area.

10. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of Infectious Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year - 52

Scarlet Fever	-
Bacillary Dysentry	15
Whooping Cough	1
Measles	35
Infantile Paralysis	-
Pneumonia	1

TUBERCULOSIS NEW CASES

Pulmonary ..... Total 9

Males	Females
6	3

Non-Pulmonary ..... Total - Nil

Males	Females
Nil	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS

Pulmonary ..... Total - 7

Males	Females
7	-

Non-Pulmonary ..... Total - Nil

Males	Females
Nil	Nil

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TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during 1956 in age groups

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F	M.	F.
0								
1								
2								
5								
10		1						
15								
20		1						
25	1							
35					1			
45	1							
55	3				2			
65	1	1			2			
75					2			
Total	6	3	-	-	7	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1956

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	7	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Cancer Stomach	2	4
" Lungs	5	-
" Breast	-	-
" Uterus	-	2
" Other sites	8	8
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	10
Coronary diseases, angina	12	2
Hypertension with heart disease	-	3
Other heart diseases	3	10
Other circulatory disease	5	1
Influenza	3	2
Pneumonia	-	-
Bronchitis	5	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	7	1
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	3
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
All other accidents	1	-
Suicide	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
	74	50

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No cases removed in 1956.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

HOUSING ACT 1936

Houses demolished	NIL
Houses closed in pursuance of undertakings by owners	NIL
Parts of Buildings closed (Sec.12)	NIL

REPAIRS : INFORMAL ACTION

Houses rendered fit as a result of Informal Action under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts	17

(a) Public Health Act 1936

Repairs by Owners	28
By Local Authority	NIL

(b) Housing Act

Rendered fit after Formal Notice (Sec.9)

(1) By Owners	3
(2) By Local Authority in default	1

Water Closets repaired	40
Water Closets and drainage to replace Pail Closets	4
Drainage repairs and improvements	44
Nuisances caused by animals	1
Smoke nuisances	NIL
Offensive Trades	1
Houses Disinfected or Fumigated	12
Houses Disinfested	3
Action re Tents, Vans	NIL
Cesspools emptied	3

REFUSE REMOVAL

Refuse collection in all parts of the district is done using two side loading vehicles.

Fire broke out at the refuse tip and this was dealt with immediately.

Litter Bins were provided in the town centre.

SEWERAGE AND NIGHT SOIL

Pails are emptied weekly and this entails work for three men on three nights.

Three sewer extensions were carried out, and the main sewer was repaired.

HOUSING

28 applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Acts were approved.

WATER SUPPLY

The district is supplied from Morwynion Lake, and Bacteriological Examinations show the water to be Class 1. The following is a typical result -

Plate Count after 24 hours	-	3 per ml.
Probable Coliform Bacilli	-	0 per 100 ml.
Probable Bact. Coli.(type 1)	-	0 per ml.

The raw water is peaty with considerable colour and a slightly acid reaction pH 6.7, but having no indication of harmful pollution. After treatment the colour is somewhat reduced, and the reaction is pH 8.0. This is considered satisfactory. At the plant treated and chlorinated water has a Temporary Hardness 15.0 and a Permanent Hardness of 7.0, and in the town 13.0 and nil respectively.

A section of sub main was renewed during the year and new service connections carried out along Manod Road to facilitate the County Council's road improvement scheme.

RAINFALL 1956

Taken 9 a.m. daily 1 ft. above ground Funnel Diameter 5"

1. Morwynion Lake (1320 ft. above sea level)

MONTH	Total Depth Inches	Greatest fall in 24 hours Inches	Date	Number of days with .01 or more	.04 or more
January	8.53	1.60	25	24	20
February	1.90	.50	4	20	12
March	7.84	3.10	1	10	10
April	2.76	.90	10	14	9
May	2.76	1.20	9	16	11
June	4.63	.62	6	17	15
July	11.23	2.78	4	21	19
August	14.29	3.10	15	22	18
September	8.00	1.75	27	21	16
October	7.77	1.46	19	19	15
November	5.83	.76	13	14	12
December	9.14	1.25	2	26	25
	84.68			224	182

2. Manod (713 ft. above sea level)

January	7.43	1.60	25	25	20
February	2.00	.59	4	15	12
March	5.43	2.02	1	12	9
April	3.07	1.00	4	15	8
May	3.05	1.22	9	18	13
June	4.08	.54	3	19	15
July	10.68	2.41	6	22	21
August	15.98	3.08	15	21	21
September	7.74	1.63	27	22	18
Octob r	7.57	1.42	19	22	16
November	5.00	.69	26	14	13
December	9.83	1.00	25	28	27
	81.86			233	193

3. Penmaesllan (Approx. 603 ft. above sea level)

	Inches	Inches	Date	.01 or more	.04 or more
January	7.56	1.35	25	17	17
February	1.74	.48	4	12	9
March	5.45	2.31	1	11	8
April	2.87	.89	4	10	8
May	3.10	1.03	9	14	13
June	4.01	.49	28	18	16
July	9.17	2.11	6	18	16
August	13.06	2.80	15	21	19
September	7.19	1.59	23	19	16
October	7.30	1.39	19	20	15
November	4.72	.68	26	14	13
December	9.75	.98	25	28	26
	75.92			202	176

FOOD

483 articles of food were found upon examination to be unfit.

MILK

Samples of TT Milk taken during the year proved satisfactory, and samples taken for investigations into a small outbreak of dysentry also proved satisfactory. All milk sold in the area is TT. There are five retailers.

ICE CREAM

One licence to sell ice cream issued during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1937

Prescribed particulars of the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health.
(Including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	16	2	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	30	20	-	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	2	-	Nil
TOTAL	35	38	2	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspectors	Referred By H.M. Inspectors	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	5	-	1	-

PART V111 OF THE ACT

There are no Out-workers.

RODENT CONTROL

One Operator is employed to serve both the Ffestiniog Urban and Deudraeth Rural areas. Sewer treatments are systematically carried out and farms regularly surveyed. 75 Dwellings, 9 Business premises and 10 Farms in the Ffestiniog area were treated during the year.